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Serial No. 10/678,065   ASA-927-02

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11   (Canceled).

12.   (Currently amended) A document retrieval method,
<u>involving a series of document retrieval processes including a
plurality of retrieval operations</u>, comprising:

a user's evaluation input step for inputting a user's
evaluation of a document by designating a document retrieved
in a document search conducted pursuant to a search condition;

a search condition storage step for, when updating said
search condition <u>based</u> on ~~the basis of~~ said evaluation,
storing a search condition ~~before and~~ after the update <u>in
addition to those search conditions that have been stored in
connection with previous retrieval operations conducted before
said update in said series of document retrieval processes</u>;

a search result storage step for storing a search result
based on the search condition ~~before and~~ after the update <u>in
addition to those search results that have been stored in
connection with previous retrieval operations conducted before
said update in said series of document retrieval processes</u>;
and

2

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Serial No. 10/678,065   ASA-927-02

a search history storage step for storing information <u>on</u>
<u>a history of the search conditions</u> stored in said search
condition storage step, information <u>on a history of search</u>
<u>results</u> stored in said search result storage step, and said
evaluation and an identifier of a document subjected to said
evaluation by making a correspondence ~~between~~ <u>among</u> them.

13.   (Previously presented)   A document retrieval method
according to claim 12, further comprising an evaluation
history display step for delivering a list of documents for
which the user has inputted evaluations to evaluate said
documents as desirable or undesirable in the past on the basis
of the information stored in said search history storage step
and said evaluations for said documents.

14.   (Previously presented)   A document retrieval method
according to claim 12, further comprising a search result
history display step for delivering a document delivered as a
search result before said search condition is updated on the
basis of said evaluation even after said search condition is
updated, on the basis of the information stored in said search
history storage step.

3

15.   (Previously presented)   A document retrieval method according to claim 13, further comprising a search condition restoration step for restoring, of the evaluation history delivered in said evaluation history display step, a search condition before a desired evaluation is inputted.

16.   (Previously presented)   A document retrieval method according to claim 13, further comprising a search condition update step for inputting an evaluation to evaluate a document delivered in said evaluation history display step as desirable or undesirable and updating said search condition on the basis of said evaluation input in said search condition update step.

17.   (Previously presented)   A document retrieval method according to claim 13, further comprising a user evaluation erase step for erasing a desired one of said evaluations as to desirability or undesirability inputted by the user in said evaluation history display step, in accordance with a request from the user, and updating the search condition to the state available when said evaluation is not made.

18.   (Previously presented)   A document retrieval method according to claim 14, further comprising a search condition

4

Serial No. 10/678,065   ASA-927-02

update step for causing the user to input an evaluation to
evaluate the document delivered in said search result history
display step as desirable or undesirable so as to update said
search condition on the basis of said evaluation input of said
search condition update step.

19.   (Previously presented) A document retrieval method
according to claim 18, further comprising a user evaluation
erase step for erasing a desired evaluation as to desirability
or undesirability inputted by the user and delivered in said
search result history display step, in accordance with a
request from the user and updating weights of strings in the
search condition to the state available when said evaluation
is not made.

20.   (Previously presented) A document retrieval method
according to claim 12, wherein a user's evaluation for a
search result document is inputted in accordance with a method
for setting one or more evaluation grades, the search
condition includes weights assigned to strings and the weight
of a string is updated in accordance with a method for setting
the degree of change in many grades pursuant to said
evaluation.

5

21.   (Currently amended)   A document retrieval system, adapted to perform a series of document retrieval processes including a plurality of retrieval operations, comprising:

[[a]] user's evaluation input step means for inputting a user's evaluation of a document by designating a document retrieved in a document search conducted pursuant to a search condition;

search condition storage means for storing, when said search condition is updated based on the basis of said evaluation, a search condition before and after the update in addition to those search conditions that have been stored in connection with previous retrieval operations conducted before said update in said series of document retrieval processes;

search result storage means for storing a search result based on the search condition before and after the update in addition to those search conditions that have been stored in connection with previous retrieval operations conducted before said update in said series of document retrieval processes; and

search history storage means for storing information on a history of the search conditions stored by said search condition storage means, information on a history of search

6

Serial No. 10/678,065   ASA-927-02

results stored by said search result storage means, and said

evaluation and an identifier of a document subjected to said

evaluation by making a correspondence ~~between~~ among them.

    22.   (Currently amended)   A computer-readable recording

medium storing a document retrieval program which, when

executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a

document retrieval method involving a series of document

retrieval processes including a plurality of retrieval

operations, the method performed according to the program

comprising:

        a user's evaluation input step for inputting a user's

evaluation of a document by designating a document retrieved

in a document search conducted pursuant to a search condition;

        a search condition storage step for storing, when

updating said search condition based on ~~the basis of~~ said

evaluation, a search condition ~~before and~~ after the update in

addition to those search conditions that have been stored in

connection with previous retrieval operations conducted before

said update in said series of document retrieval processes;

        a search result storage step for storing a search result

based on the search condition ~~before and~~ after the update in

addition to those search conditions that have been stored in

7

Serial No. 10/678,065   ASA-927-02

connection with previous retrieval operations conducted before

said update in said series of document retrieval processes;

and

    a search history storage step for storing information on

a history of the search conditions stored in said search

condition storage step, information on a history of search

results stored in said search result storage step, and said

evaluation and an identifier of a document subjected to said

evaluation by making a correspondence between them.

8